

LETTERS

October 7, 1963
Torrance, Calif.

To the Editor:

Where I grew up we were taught pride of family, pride of our city and pride for our school.

Loyalty to one as to the other.

When a tragedy came to any of those, no one was alone. What hurt one, hurt us all. Therefore I believe our police department, which has suffered of late, now needs each and everyone of us living in Torrance to stand by them.

When a man decides to join the Police Department he takes written civil service exams, stiff physicals; he must be fit in mind as well as in body to be sent to the sheriff's academy.

Once there, he has 16 weeks of daily training. There are rigid rules to be followed, hours of grueling exercises. He learns to handle firearms and must be a perfect marksman, along with hours spent in class rooms.

Some will break, for one reason or other; but here they leave nothing to chance. All requirements must be met.

Upon graduation from the academy, he is placed on the force in the area he has made his home. He now works with men who continue to show him the routine. Each has sworn to uphold law and order; they have no reason to doubt one another.

These men work together side by side. They must handle all calls; sometimes, too often, one gives his life in line of duty.

Therefore, when, one day, a call comes into the station men are sent out. They give chase, only to learn one of their own has broken the law.

They must arrest and take him in. That is what has to be done: uphold the law, regardless of who has broken it — son, brother, neighbor or fellow-officer — no matter!

It is not up to him to judge, but to do his duty as he sees it! Words can not describe his shame, to learn a fellow-officer has fallen, letting down all men in uniform. Each man looks into the eyes of all he passes, hoping to find a small glimmer of trust.

Trust he must not ask for but trust we should have. There is trust, if we stop long enough to realize they too are humane, that now and then there will be one among them who falls, along the way. Yes, even several. This can not, nor will not end the fine work of the officers still with the force; he must carry, also, the burden put on him by this fallen officer.

Today our police department goes about their work while an investigation, now under way, from outside our city, goes on. I have talked with several, from our police department. They do not condemn us for our failings. In fact they welcome this investigation, knowing when it has been completed, all will return to normal again.

There is but one thing to be said concerning the courtesy cards, or Get out of Jail Free cards — Our fallen officers must have left theirs at home, when they were caught. Wouldn't it have run easier on every one to have "honored" their "cards" and forgotten the entire mess?

Indeed, it is easy to knock down a man who has already received a hard blow! Every man on our police force today would rather have received a blow than the scar that mars several badges, because one among them failed to care or have pride enough to wear.

As of July 1, this year,

our population was being served by 144 on our force plus seven new applicants, who, by now may be with us. Our support today will help to lighten the heavy burden each man now carries, because a fellow officer saw fit to throw pride aside.

I have, myself, received a ticket for speeding. This does not, nor should it give me, or anyone else, cause to want to "hit back." I feel, when an officer cares enough to pull me over, I should give thanks. He may have saved my life or he may have prevented my causing some one else from suffering because I forgot to be careful.

Let us remember these men who serve us; they give us security. Can't we in turn show them now we do respect and trust?

The above was written out of courtesy only—and—sincerity is contagious.

Mrs. D. E. Carlberg



Torrance Press:

I came to Torrance when we had 16,000 population and now we have over 120,000. I'm glad you bring the light on all our city hall drunks eye for eye and tooth for tooth.

Keep up the good work and give 'em hell.

Frank W. Bealac
3222 Antonio St.



Dear Editor:

HOW BAD IS OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Incompetency was implied by the city manager's recent proposal to open the Fire Chief's examination to Fire Departments of any California city with a minimum of 80,000 population. "Get the best man for the job," has been the cry.

Read on, fellow tax-paying citizen, it is high time you get a good look at all the facts to be considered. We too, want the best man for the job.

"Lack of qualified applicants" . . . ? Facts: Not one but 21 Torrance Fire Officers with a minimum of 10 years service are available to compete. These fine men have proven themselves on every competitive step of the ladder. They have a sincere interest in you, are dedicated to the Fire Service, and have devoted their lives to protecting life and property in this "All-American City."

Is the Torrance Fire Department's general performance inferior? Facts: Over the years, under the present

closed examination system, Torrance has developed one of the most comprehensive, highly efficient, fastest moving, hardest hitting, best equipped, and dependable fire departments in the entire nation. Statistics prove our fire loss is well below the average of comparable cities. Not a bad record considering our square mile area is nearly twice that of the average city.

Sound like flag waving? You bet your life it is! We have a flag to wave. Why even consider going outside for unknown "soldiers of fortune" from other cities?

A promotion to Fire Chief from the ranks trigger five subsequent promotions down the chain of command. Promotions worked for, studied for, and DESERVED. Some on the department have Fire Science degrees. Many others working toward this end, still others pursuing related specialized college courses in administration, public relations, personnel management, chemistry, hydraulics, arson investigation, etc.

In California how many cities of 100,000 or more population hold open chief's examinations? Fact: NONE.

To work for the City of Torrance we had to be at least one year residents. To compete in examinations for Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief we have to be residents. Now to vie for the Chief's slot, are we to face every Tom, Dick and Harry from the whole State?

"Fear of competition?" Fact: No! But this would be an extremely lopsided arrangement, completely unnecessary and morally dead wrong. Going outside our city for a Fire Chief could pave the way for going outside for lower classifications as well, which in turn would be the beginning of the destruction of our entire Civil Service system. The system which enables the 118,000 population metropolis to operate efficiently with only 780 employees, compared to such smaller cities as Glendale with 1182 employees, Pasadena with 1702, Burbank with 1099, Santa Monica with 987, etc. Let's not take another step in the direction of the snails system!

The capable City officials are sincerely trying, we trust, to arrive at a solution which will benefit Torrance. Hats off to the council and Civil Service Board members who voted against outside examinations. They also recognize the pitfalls and demoralizing effects of tampering with a sound Civil Service system.

Our proposal is to allow the next three (3) ranks below Chief, with 10 years minimum service, to compete for the post in a closed examination. Provision for this proposal would allow 21 officers to compete, and must come by amending the present ordinances affecting selection of a Fire Chief.

Various board and commissions are appointed to study and recommend a logical course of action in the problems that confront their particular fields. For any council to ignore their findings and go their own way without so much as reading a transcript of the study smacks indeed of irresponsibility. The "If they don't like it, let them resign," attitude speaks for itself.

An informed citizenry is still the American Way. You, the taxpayer, can help strengthen our city by offering your support of this proposal to our city officials. Torrance Fire Fighters Association



Dear Editor:

It would appear that it is not only trouble in the police department that the Torrance City Council is not interested in finding out about. At last weeks council meeting one councilman charged that some people receive better treatment than others in their requests for variances and zoning changes and he felt that favors and gratuities had something to do with it. This councilman went on to state he had the proof if anyone was interested in seeing it. Neither the mayor nor the other members of the city council showed any interest in listening to what this one councilman had to say let alone interest in seeing his proof.

When this councilman gained the floor at the council session the other members had expected to hear, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," instead of that he started singing about favoritism and gratuities, free airplane rides and offers to purchase property by people connected with the city after refusing to give a variance on the exact same piece of property.

While the one councilman was telling his story other members of the council were laughing and talking. At one point the speaking councilman admonished his fellow councilman by stating, "Now listen you guys keep quiet and listen. You said I could talk so listen to me. I want you to hear this."

However, no one was interested in listening. The meeting took on the appearance of amateur night where someone had forgotten the gong.

The mayor and city council may not be interested in what this councilman had to say and what is going on in Torrance but the citizens of Torrance are interested. It is time the people of this community demand that their mayor and councilmen listen to valid criticism and take steps to make corrections where called for. The city council has the power to act, they should act.

Sincerely,
David K. Lyman

20853 Halldale Avenue
Torrance, California, 90501
October 12, 1963

Named to Board

Henry Griswold, chairman of the Board of Directors of Guaranty Bank, announced today that William C. Kulow had been elected to the Board of Directors of Guaranty Bank.

Mr. Kulow brings with him a wealth of banking experience having been an officer of the Bank of America for many years, and is well acquainted with the entire South Bay area having also served as associate vice president of the Capital Company.

Quite active locally, Mr. Kulow, is serving at the present time as president of the board of the Rolling Hills Realtors, as a member of the Los Angeles County Highway Traffic and Safety Committee; is a past president of the Palos Verdes Rotary and last year was elected Citizen of the Year of the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

The Press,
3238 Sepulveda Blvd.,
Torrance, California.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a resident of the Los Angeles strip and in light of Mayor Isen's recent arrest for drunk driving, I am writing to express my gratitude to the news media of this area for publishing the fact that we have been publicly disowned by him. To the people of Torrance proper, may I say this. The people living in the Los Angeles City strip are your neighbors. They worship in your churches, bank in your banks, and spend most of their income in your stores. They resent very much, the remarks made about their area and attributed to Mayor Isen, quote, "This area is always causing our city much unfavorable publicity, and it isn't Torrance at all."

Crime and vandalism have never been limited to any one area and this washing of the hands and laying the blame elsewhere, is not a proper thing to do. I hope that the mayor, through his personal experience, will have lost some of his arrogance and will have gained a more sympathetic understanding of his neighbors and their feelings.

Los Angeles strip resident.

FA 8-9128

Seamanship Course Set

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a free 10 week course in Basic Seamanship beginning Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 8 p.m. at Dominguez High, 417 West Alondra, Compton.

The course, which will be held every Tuesday, evening, will include instructions in seamanship, rules of the road, aids to navigation, equipment requirements, navigation and piloting, and safety precautions. Students who satisfactorily complete the course will be awarded a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Completion. Cmdr. M. W. Tichen, 11th Coast Guard District director of auxiliary, said today.

Further information on the course may be obtained at the first class meeting or by writing Director of Auxiliary, 11th Coast Guard District, 706 Times Building, Long Beach 2, California.

HONOR

You can be deprived of your money, your job and your home by someone else, but remember that no one can ever take away your honor.

—William Lyon Phelps

SCIENCE

New discoveries in science . . . will continue to create a thousand new frontiers for those who would still adventure.

—Herbert Hoover

EDUCATION

Every student must be a volunteer in the intellectual and spiritual struggle to preserve freedom for mankind.

—Franklin Roosevelt

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Established April 15, 1941
Published Semi-Weekly Wednesday and Friday Entered as second class matter Oct. 6, 1957 at Post Office, Torrance California, under act of March 3, 1879. Adjudicated a legal newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Calif. Adjudicated Decree No. L.B.C.25258 April 8, 1958

Publisher: W. R. Zoopas
Director: Bob Mann
Managing Editor: William Schell Jr.
Women's Editor: Ronnie Saunders
Mechanical Superintendent: Walter Wehr
Classified Manager: Jay Delany
Circulation Manager: Larry Robertson
Business Manager: Ruth Peterson

Office and Plant:
3238 W. Sepulveda Blvd.
Torrance, California
Telephone: DA 5-1515

Subscription Rates
(Payable in advance)
Carrier Delivery: 25c per month
Local and Out-of-Town, per year: \$12.00
All manuscripts submitted at owner's risk. The Torrance Press can accept no responsibility for their return.